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Parks and Recreation Minutes 03/04/2002

Robbins Farm Park: Master Plan Update Meeting No.2 Meeting Notes

The following points were raised at the meeting regarding the Master Plan Update for Robbins' Farm Park:

1. The Friends liked the barn-silo and tractor structures from Columbia Cascades and asked if CRJA could get information on local installations of Columbia Cascade playground equipment.
2. CRJA mentioned that the structures could be constructed in either wood or metal or a combination of materials. The Park Commission specified that no wood structures were to be constructed by the Town; only steel post structures would be accepted.
3. The group liked the idea of a widened staircase to provide access to the top of the hill slides; however, they would like to split the width shown on the plan to provide a stairway flanking each side of the slides. The Friends also mentioned a desire to add additional trees in the area, perhaps expanding or realigning the grid of the orchard.
4. The types of orchard trees discussed were crabapples, pears, and cherries. The group discussed that it would be best if the trees were non-fruiting varieties to both reduce the tree litter in the play area and to address the potential problem of the children throwing the fruits.
5. The Friends thought that the Master Plan should show a "maximum build-out" of 3 children's swings and 3 toddler swings; however, only 1 of each would be built in the Phase I construction project. They asked CRJA to show the swings in such a way that they could be phased into the playground at a later time.
6. The types of fencing along the street edge was discussed and it was decided that the variety of post and rail, boulder, and bollards solutions were acceptable.
7. The Commission mentioned the desire to rotate soccer fields to help in reducing wear patterns in the lawns. CRJA noted that this would be an important consideration in the final grading of the baseball outfield and in the layout and grading of the practice fields.
8. The Friends expressed concerns regarding the maintenance required for the "ice skating" area. CRJA mentioned that the area could be designed to accommodate this use, adding the drainage structure and pipe connections, however, that the same area in spring/summer/fall could be used as a grassy area for picnicking. This would not preclude the potential use for ice skating and would provide the Friends and Park Commission time to better understand the maintenance requirements of the ice skating.
9. The Friends asked what type of benches should be used in the park, expressing a desire for a consistent bench style. CRJA responded that the choice would be up to them and the Commission. Discussions included wood/metal, all metal, and recycled lumber/metal benches. The Commission expressed a desire to use a recycled lumber/metal bench, similar to or the same as the "donor" benches that the Town has installed elsewhere. Employing this type of bench in RFP would be consistent with the long-term maintenance goals of the Town.
10. The group discussed the problems and issues regarding the bottom of "suicide hill". CRJA agreed that the Master Plan should show some type of graded solution for this area; however, this would not be a priority project to be included in Phase I construction work.
11. The Friends asked if the play area included a sand box. CRJA responded that the sand box shown on the plan was approximately 18 feet in diameter. The Friends asked if CRJA could incorporate "diggers" into the sand area. CRJA responded that they would look into placing "diggers" in the sand area and including costs in the estimates.

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